



Healthcare services

A registered nurse provides in-house healthcare that focuses mainly on, but not exclusively on, appropriate prenatal and postnatal care. One of our community partners, St Michael's Hospital provides an onsite mental health nurse and a nurse practitioner on a part-time basis. The Jean Tweed Centre, another community partner, provides a part-time addictions counsellor. Referrals are made to other health care agencies as needed.

Activities for mothers

Group recreation activities for mothers promote self-esteem through arts and crafts, book club, cross-cultural cooking, exercise classes and yoga. Learning workshops include the Mommy and Me parenting program and Lifeskills, which teaches financial management and conflict resolution. Many community partners work with our women and children while they are at the shelter and after they move back into the community.

Young Pregnant Mothers' Program

Robertson House offers a Young Pregnant Mothers' Program to give pregnant homeless women the opportunity to parent their newborn in a nurturing environment. Women who are five months pregnant can join our family environment to enhance their parenting abilities, receive peer support from other mothers, and attend programs that focus on positive parent-child relationships. We work openly and proactively with Children's Aid and other agencies to provide appropriate care to mothers and infants.

For more information, contact:

Robertson House

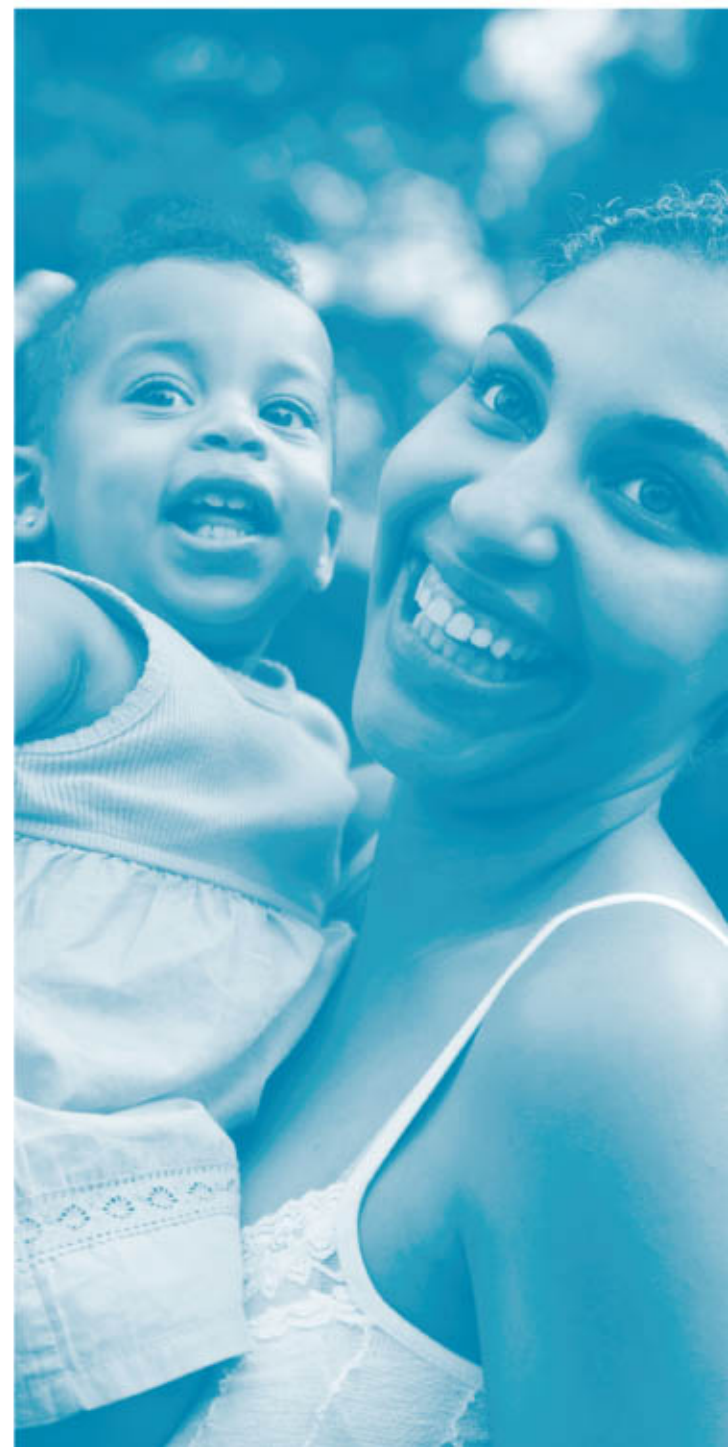
291 Sherbourne Street
Toronto, ON M5A 2R9
Phone: 416-392-5662
Fax: 416-392-3897

Central Family Intake (24-hour line):
416-397-5637



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Printed in Toronto, Canada
September 2005
Printed on recycled paper

Welcome to Robertson House





Robertson House

Robertson House provides shelter and related services to homeless pregnant and parenting women. The shelter, located at Gerrard and Sherbourne Streets in downtown Toronto, can house up to 90 women and children.

Eligibility

We house pregnant women and women with children who are homeless for a variety of reasons, such as abuse, eviction, family relocation, fire or are refugees.

Admissions

Families in need of shelter services can contact Central Family Intake at 416-397-5637, 24 hours a day to complete a telephone interview. Central Family Intake will refer the family immediately for admission to Robertson House or another family shelter.

At-risk homeless pregnant women without children can access the Young Pregnant Mothers' Program by phoning the Robertson House Program Supervisor at 416-392-5655 to arrange an appointment. Placement in this program may not be immediate. Women may be referred to a single person's shelter while they wait for admission. This program is for women who are not able to stay in other facilities that cater to pregnant women. Our aim is to provide residential placement and support that is accessible and non-threatening to pregnant, street-involved clients who might otherwise not receive prenatal and postnatal care.

Our mission

Robertson House is committed to providing a safe residence for homeless pregnant women and mother-led families while they obtain permanent housing. We offer services to women and children that encourage them to make their own choices and gain independence. We respond to children's needs by providing quality children's programs and advocacy. We believe in the strength and potential of the families we serve.

Our facility

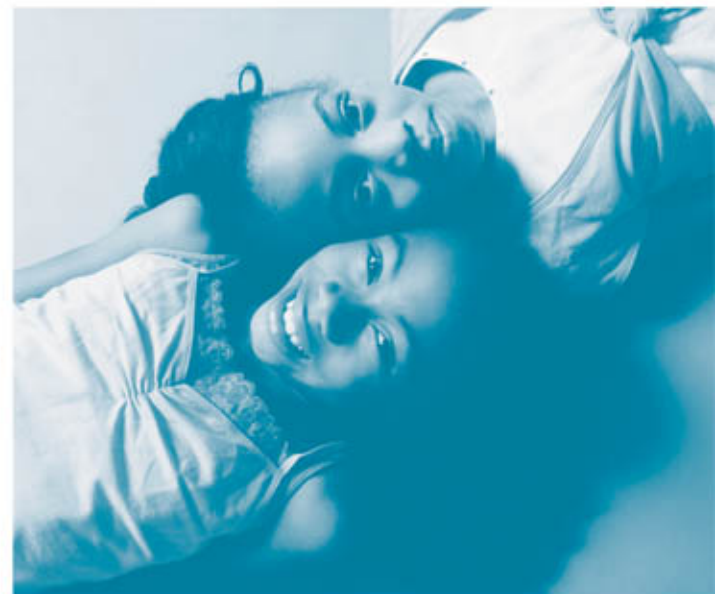
Robertson House has 37 rooms with shared bathrooms in an award-winning, home-like setting in downtown Toronto. Meals are served in the main dining room. The City of Toronto Children's Services Division operates an in-house nursery school program for infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

Counselling services

Robertson House works with women to develop individual goals. Each woman takes ownership of decisions that affect her life and has a say about the services she receives. Counsellors help families in their transition to independent living. Counsellors work with a wide range of community partners, including schools, housing providers and children's agencies, and Ontario Works to assist families in their transition back into the community.



The Children's Counsellor helps school-age children adapt to their new surroundings and supports positive parenting. They ensure children have appropriate play and social opportunities while staying at the shelter and when they move back into the community.



Children's programs

Our nursery school program provides opportunities for women and children to attend infant stimulation groups, parenting education, and preschool education in an atmosphere that promotes positive parent-child relationships. The ECE staff provide good role models of appropriate parenting and help mothers to understand early childhood development and age-appropriate responses and expectations. Children who are at-risk for a variety of developmental issues are identified and referred to appropriate agencies for assessment.

The school-age program offers supervised recreational activities including arts and crafts, daytrips, sports, lifeskills, social skills, cooking, homework club, academic, reading circles and educational advocacy. Children with special needs are given additional support so they can participate in shelter activities. Children who have experienced violence may be referred to a partner agency for counselling.